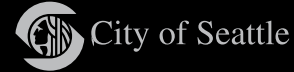
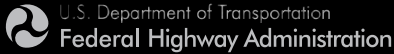


# The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project

06.06



## What other options were evaluated?

### *Elliott Bay Bridge*

The cut-and-cover tunnel and elevated structure were chosen by WSDOT, the City of Seattle, and FHWA out of an original list of 76 concepts. Replacing the viaduct is a major project that will dramatically affect a critical transportation route through Seattle. Since this is a significant decision, ideas continue coming in, and people ask us to reconsider concepts previously eliminated. We have made diligent efforts to evaluate the promising suggestions. **This fact sheet is one in a series that describes a proposed idea, how it was evaluated, and why the project team determined it's not the best solution.** We cannot afford to wait forever to replace the viaduct and seawall, but public input is very important. When a final decision is made on a solution for replacing the viaduct, we want the public to understand how we came to that conclusion.

## Why was an Elliott Bay Bridge proposed?

We hear several reasons why people believe it is the right solution:

- A bridge across Elliott Bay would keep the viaduct open during construction, with only minor disruptions when traffic is switched over to the new bridge.
- A new bridge would create a world-class signature structure, enhancing views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains for drivers.

## What are some of the issues?

- **Unprecedented design.** The bridge has a center span more than a half mile in length, longer than all but one completed suspension bridge in the world. This means the option would be a risky project with a lot of unknowns that could drive up costs.

- **Difficult permitting.** The foundations alone would be the equivalent of two 60-story buildings underwater. It would be extremely difficult to obtain environmental permits, as the plan would entail significant impacts to the fish and wildlife, including endangered species, that live in Elliott Bay.



*The anchoring piers for the proposed bridge would be 200 feet taller than the Space Needle.*

## What did we study?

When members of the public propose an option, it is often just an idea they've had. We need a specific design or concept to evaluate. For this idea, we evaluated the following concept:

- Build a six-lane cable-stay bridge that would stretch two miles across Elliott Bay from South Holgate Street to the Battery Street Tunnel, which would continue to be used.
- To reach across Elliott Bay, the bridge itself would need to be over 200 feet high, with the two anchoring piers 800 feet tall - taller than the Space Needle.



*The alignment of a six-lane cable-stay bridge, stretching two miles across Elliott Bay from South Holgate Street to the Battery Street Tunnel.*

- **Dramatically different views across the waterfront.** The 800-foot tall towers would be, well, towering. They would be eight stories taller than the 78-story Columbia Center, 200 feet taller than the Space Needle, and 100 feet taller than the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge.



*An Elliott Bay Bridge would dramatically change the views from the waterfront and encroach upon Port of Seattle activities.*

- **Many property impacts.** Because of this plan's wide 'footprint' on the waterfront and across Puget Sound, it would unnecessarily displace residents and businesses; encroach into port, railroad, and other existing land uses; and impede navigation of container ships, cruise ships, ferries, and airplanes.
- **It is not possible to avoid a major construction project on the waterfront.** Construction will still be necessary to fix the seawall, and to relocate utilities under or near the viaduct. We will also need large areas for construction vehicles and staging regardless of the exact project location.

#### For More Information:

##### Visit the Web site at:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct)

##### Call the hotline:

206-269-4421

##### Send an e-mail to:

[viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov)

##### Send a letter to:

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project  
c/o Washington State Department of Transportation  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Americans with Disabilities Act & Title VI information

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:** Materials can be provided in alternative formats: large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer disk for people with disabilities by contacting Molly Edmonds at 206-267-3841 / [EdmondM@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:EdmondM@wsdot.wa.gov). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request for alternative formats through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.

**Title VI:** WSDOT ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding WSDOT's Title VI Program, you may contact the Department's Title VI Coordinator at 360-705-7098.